



RIOTS

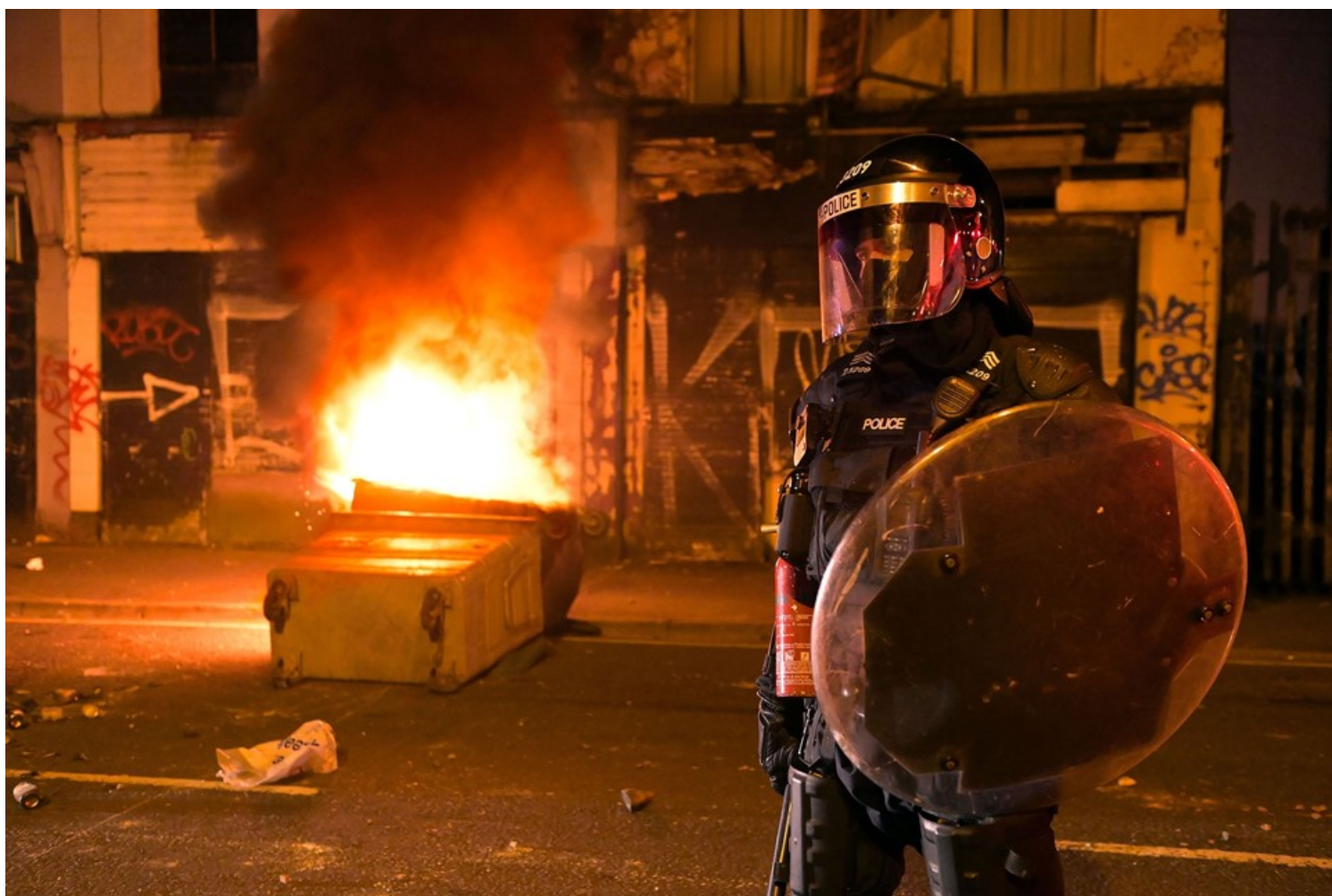


GARDA ATTACK PICKET



MAY DAY: HISTORY AND LEGACY

BLACK STAR ★



FUCK THE POLICE? The NI Riots

Lots of people got really bent out of shape over the recent riots here. Republicans and nationalists were calling on the cops to crack down hard on those out on the streets, the mass media in Britain said the peace process was all but over, and loyalists and unionist politicians warned young people that they were at risk of ruining their future with a criminal record. What future?

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‘I was one of them kids and when there was a riot going on at the bottom of my street growing up in Tiger's Bay, you got involved in it’

Carl Frampton.

Fuck The Police? The NI Riots



We have had a bad peace - one that copper-fastens sectarianism and allows capitalism to ride roughshod over people day and daily. There is however one war worth fighting: the class war.

jobs, with opportunities and this can be sorted out'.

Actually, all parties gave out this same message as if they hadn't done enough to fuck up everyone's future with their rancid sectarian shite and neo-liberal policies! Some on the left even suggested state forces were behind it all, because encouraging young people in some of the most disadvantaged communities in the North to attack the cops is classically state collusion! What the fuck?

These riots have been a long time in the making, years of pent-up frustrations and socio-economic hopelessness, animosity towards the state and the cops, combined with the lockdown and a climate of the DUP winding things up. It was left to a recently retired boxer to provide some sensible analysis.

Carl Frampton in little more than a soundbite after a week of political and media bollocks said 'I think projects and money needs to be pumped into these kind of working class areas to help kids with educational programmes, whatever it may be, with

MAY DAY: Origins and Legacy



From the Leveller Archive, this article originally appeared in the bulletin of Organise!, *the Leveller*, issue 15, May 2014 available (along with other issues of the paper) at: <https://organiseanarchistsireland.com/the-leveller-issue-15-may-2014/>

May Day was adopted by the international workers movement as an annual celebration of the struggle for the 8 hour day and as a commemoration of the judicial murder of 4, and the suicide of 1, anarchists involved in that struggle in Chicago in 1887.

On 1st May 1886, in Chicago alone, 400,000 workers went on strike for the 8 hour day. At McCormick Harvester Co. 200 police attacked striking workers with clubs and pistols. At least 1 striker was killed, 5-6 seriously wounded and many more injured. A rally protesting the police attacks was organised for the following day.

This rally was addressed by anarchist labour activists August Spies, Albert Parsons and Samuel Fielden. As it came to an end and most of the crowd had already drifted off due to rain 180 police arrived and ordered those who remained to disperse. At this point a bomb was thrown at police killing one officer and fatally wounding 6 more.

The police opened fire. No record of the numbers killed or wounded exists.

In the wake of the bomb throwing a reign of terror swept Chicago. Meeting Halls, Union offices, printing presses were raided, trashed and closed. Peoples homes were raided. Anarchists and socialist and many workers who were neither were rounded up. Many were tortured.

Abort The State



Our wee patriarchs and bigots on the hill are moving forward with their plans to overturn the legalisation of abortion provision in the north. Focusing on the 'unconstitutional' manner in which it was 'imposed' by Westminster our collection of shitehawks are neatly deflecting from the reality that it was years of direct action, protest, civil disobedience and suffering that won the right to abortion after years of hardship and struggle.

Alongside the DUP, Paul Givan's bill was backed by the TUV, a large majority of UUP and SDLP MLAs, and one Alliance representative. Despite

fake opposition Sinn Féin MLAs abstained, standing aside allowing the bill to pass. Hardly a surprise given their support for restricting abortion access during a debate last year.

We can't rely on Westminster, the courts or Stormont to defend the right to choose – while we can force change from below meaningful and permanent progress cannot be made until we abolish capitalism and the patriarchal state permanently.

Eventually 8 men were to stand trial for murder.

All of the men were anarchists active in Chicago's labour movement. The trial was marked by packed juries, intimidation and no evidence. What was really on trial were the men's ideas, the aim of the trial was to crush those ideas and working class self organisation in Chicago.

August Spies, Samuel Fielden, Albert Parsons, Adolph Fischer, George Engel, Michael Schwab and Louis Lingg were eventually all sentenced to death. Oscar Neebe was sentenced to 15 years. Immediately an international campaign against the trial and its verdict began. As a result Fielden and Schwab's sentences were commuted to life.

Spies, Parsons, Fischer and Engel were executed while Louis Lingg cheated his executioners by committing suicide in jail.

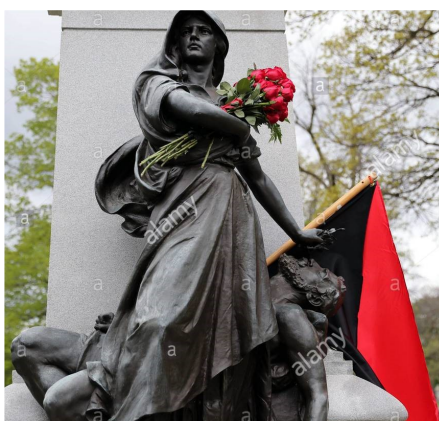
In 1893 Neebe, Schwab and Fielden were pardoned.

The struggle for the 8 hour day went on and was won across much of the world.

Many of the gains made over the intervening years of struggle have been stripped from us in more recent times. Zero hours contracts for some, a longer working day for others, attacks on pensions, welfare and other hard fought for rights.

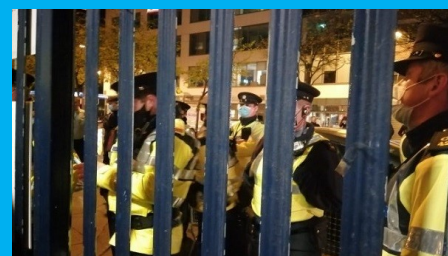
The legacy of May Day is however that workers can come together and win. We have organised as workers, employed and unemployed, across barriers of sectarianism, gender, race, ethnicity and fought against governments and bosses willing to kill us. When we have done so we have won victories against seemingly overwhelming odds.

The next time you hear someone argue that there is no alternative to cuts and austerity remember our history. But don't mourn – Organise!



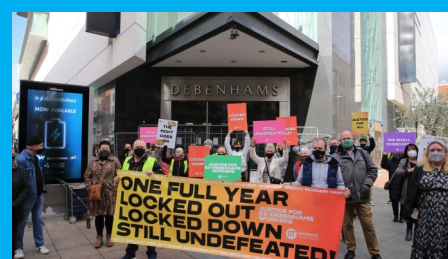
Northern Anarchist News from Organise!

Garda Forcibly Remove Debenham's Strikers in Dublin



In the small hours of Friday 23rd April the courts and Gardai, acting on behalf of infamous liquidators KPMG, forcibly removed former Debenhams workers from a former Debenhams loading bay in Parnell Street, Dublin.

Shop steward Jane Crowe described how Garda pulled off her coat and top as they physically trailed her, and others, from the loading bay,



'the way they handled me, my coat came off, my top came up off over my head, and they broke my underwear and then put me on the ground like that so I was then exposed like that outside'.

The sacked workers had been picketing since 9 April last year in order to force a half decent redundancy package from liquidators KPMG. They had just made the decision to ballot on a proposed package when they were attacked by Garda enforcing a high court injunction. The courts had declared their pickets stopping the removal of stock by KPMG as 'illegal'. The dispersal of the pickets allowed scab trucks in to remove stock from the former Debenhams store to line KPMG already deep pockets - something the pickets had been preventing throughout their dispute.

Meanwhile in Ballymena...

Mid and East Antrim councillors recently announced they were giving themselves a three per cent pay rise while just a week or so before decided also to raise the local rates by two per cent, presumably in part to help pay for it! Nurses and other public sector workers were offered one per cent in a period when real wages have declined by around ten per cent for over a decade against the cost of living. Maybe, the council's discredited Chief Executive, famed for her support for an all-expenses council dinner for Michael Gove at the Tullyglass Hotel in 2017, should donate some of her £150k 'earnings'. Fucking parasites.

In other news the Ballymena Guardian, had the brass neck to trumpet news from Wright Bus that they had just won a contract to supply buses for Japan and Hong Kong worth £8 million, except that the buses are being built in Malaysia.

Since the company went bust with debts of £60 million and the lay-off of over a thousand workers, their 'saviour', the so-called green entrepreneur Jo Bamford (heir to the JCB business left to him by his daddy, Lord Anthony Bamford, the ardent Brexiteer and major Tory Party donor), fixed his sights on Puchong,



'Green' capitalist, JCB heir and Wright Bus 'saviour' Jo Bamford.

Malaysia for these recent builds. New minimum wage rules came into force in Malaysia in 2020 that guarantee £5.00 a day in a country where migrant workers are often prevented from joining trade unions and allegations of forced labour have grown in recent years. Never mind, at least the Green Pastures Church which Jeff Wright ploughed so much of Wrightbus's money into, is being sold off to the tune of £6 million, bringing the whole sorry saga to an abrupt end. Everybody a winner, except the workers as usual.

That's Capitalism



So we are coming out of lockdown and into a period in which the extent of the crisis on working class and poor people will become increasingly stark.

It is beyond doubt that the impact on working class communities will be the most severe. The health impact from covid19 and as a result of cancelled and delayed treatments for other illnesses has of course impacted disproportionately on us. Debt has increased and savings, for those who had them, have been depleted. Across the UK there were already lower hourly rates of pay, lower hours worked and more precarity than, for instance in Germany. We have record redundancies but the worst may be still to come. The furlough scheme may in the short-term mask some of the job losses but unemployment has increased, markedly more in the 50-69 age range than for younger workers. This is an age group that finds getting a new job that much more difficult - when they do it

is with an average 10% less pay.

Demand on housing is growing and private rents continue to increase. Pay is decreasing in real terms for most of us while bosses and politicians steal more of the wealth we create.

Amazon, Microsoft, Apple, Tesla, Tencent, Facebook, Nvidia, Alphabet, PayPal, T-mobile, Pinduoduo, Netflix, Meituan Dianping, Shopify, Zoom Video, JD.com, Adobe, Audi, AbbVie and Kweichow Moutai top the top 100 list of companies who have raked in hundreds of billions during the lockdown while we increasingly rely on foodbanks.

Obscene amounts of wealth are in the hands of these corporations and of individual capitalists in the midst of increasing global poverty and hardship. At the end of January it was reported that the wealth increases (not their total wealth 'just' the amount their expropriated hoard of loot has increased by during the pandemic) of just 10 men could pay for Covid19 vaccines for the entire population of the planet! Jeff Bezos could have given every single Amazon employee a \$105,000 bonus with the money earned since March 2020. They create his wealth for the greedy bastard after all. He is only one of the 10 richest people, whose fortunes have risen by \$540bn since then, Tesla founder Elon Musk and Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg are up there too.

Isn't it beyond time that a bit of levelling was done?

